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gcsucolonnade.com

## 'What Is Your Life's Blueprint?'

#### **Caroline Duckworth** Managing Editor

GC hosted its third annual breakfast honoring Martin Luther King Jr. on Friday, Jan. 18. This year, the theme centered around King's "What Is Your Life's Blueprint?" speech which he gave to students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia in 1967.

"Whenever a building is constructed, you usually have an architect who draws a blueprint, and that blueprint serves as the guide for those who are to build the building," King said to these young teens. "A building is not well erected without a good, sound and solid blueprint. Now, each of you is in the process of building the structure of your lives, and the question is whether you have a proper, a solid and a sound blueprint."

Members of the Milledgeville and Baldwin County community as well as GC faculty, staff and students gathered in Magnolia Ballroom to honor King and his timeless words. Speakers at the event included Veronica Womack, chief diversity officer of the Office of Inclusive Excellence, and community member Quentin Howell.

The sold-out event also recognized students from local schools, such Baldwin County Schools, John Milledge Academy and GC Early College, who had competed in an essay contest about what King's blueprint speech meant to them. Four finalists ranging from 3rd grade to 11th grade presented their work at the break-

President Steven Dorman said that this annual breakfast and writing contest is important to "encourage young peo-



Caroline Duckworth / Managing Editor

'What Is Your Life's Blueprint" essay finalists pose with their awards on Jan. 18

ple to study the words of King" and to "acknowledge the work of young people in Baldwin County."

One of these young individuals was 11th-grader Chris Jackson. As the winner of the high school, Jackson was the last of the student finalists to take the stage. Standing tall in a bright

white button-up, he read connected himself to his essay in a strong, proud voice, sharing how King's speech profoundly affected him.

"It was nerve-wracking at first," Jackson said afterward. "But I love the speech, so when I got up there, I kind of shook it off and got to it."

and described the most empowering points of King's 1967 speech, such as having a deep belief a little in your own dignity and having the determination to achieve excellence. At the conclusion of his essay, Jackson received a standing ovation.

The initial round In his essay, Jackson of selections begins at

the school level. These school finalists then go to a committee, which spends a full day looking at all of the essays and other creative works, scoring them according to a rubric.

"It's the most fun," said Beauty Bragg, a GC English professor and

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## GC football 'Ball' so hard



Courtesy of GC Wellness & Recreation

Ball cooling down after their semifinal win in the national tournament agaisnt NC A&T.

#### Alex Jones Sports Editor

GC Intramurals kicked off 2019 in a familiar atmosphere, sending "Ball", the men's intramural flag football champion team, to the national tournament held in Pensacola, Florida.

Ball, comprised of its bid to the national game on Jan. 6. tournament.

ment hosted at Georgia Grande Valley in the na A&T. Southern, which secured national championship

Leading up to the

The team compet- national championship nine GC students, is rec- ed against other colle- game, Ball defeated ognized as the Georgia giate programs on the schools across the na-State Champion after national stage, going tion, including; Florida battling through a field 5-0 through pool and International, Maryland, of 16 teams and win- bracket play before fall- Texas Southern, Florida ning the state tourna- ing short to Texas Rio A&M and North Caroli-

"GC is always there,

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## GC's seeing aoubie

#### **Sydney Wilson** Staff Writer

Freshman year of college is sometimes described as one of the loneliest times in your life. However, a select few on campus can choose to bring a little piece of home with them into the new and possibly intimidating

world of college: twins. While some twins may decide to go to separate schools, others, such as identical twins Hailey and Bailey Brannan from McDonough, Georgia, knew that staying together was set in stone.

"We do better together," Hailey said, explaining why she and her sister decided stick together.

The two sisters had first both chosen to pursue careers in nursing, which then led them

to GC in Fall 2017. Even though their grades have been accidentally switched multiple times in their classes, Bailey says having her

sister with her at college

is "the biggest blessing." Both sisters agreed that having each other for support during their first years helped them avoid the infamous freshman loneliness.

"It's life changing to have your twin at college," Hailey said. "You don't have to worry about being alone, and it makes your relationship so much stronger."

The Brannan twins roomed together for their year at The Village. Last year, they founded the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority together.

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#### **NEWS**



#### **GROUNDSKEEPING AT GC**

GC groundskeepers work to keep campus beautiful in the spring.

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#### **SPORTS**



#### **GC INTRAMURAL STATE CHAMPS**

GC Intramurals sends campus champions, Ball, to the state and national tournaments.

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#### ARTS & LIFE



#### **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS**

Counselors share the insight behind skipping out on your 2019 resolution.

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#### **NEWS**

## **Wellness Center cuts back hours**

#### Ava Leone Staff Writer

Student employees at the Wellness and Recreation Center face reduced hours for Spring 2019 because of budget restrictions. They were notified of the upcoming changes in an email sent out last semester.

Some students like sophomore Shayla Nobles, a nursing major, have experienced shift cuts. Nobles works at the front desk and had one shift cut. She now works twice a week at the WRC for a total of seven

Bert Rosenberger, director of Wellness and Recreation, said student hours were cut due to a rise in equipment repair and operational costs.

"Instead of eliminating one student that works 10 hours a week, there will be five students who will lose two hours," Rosenberger said.

Rosenberger said he wants to minimize the impact of the hour cuts on students by broadening the hour cuts.

Students working at the fitness desk, front desk, or as lifeguards, scorekeepers and group fitness instructors have been affected by the cuts.

Faith Farber, a senior outdoor education major, works at the climbing wall.

"Since the climbing wall hours did not change, I was not affected at all," Farber

Currently, there are around 110 students em-

ployed by the WRC who work between four and 12 hours a week.

When school in in session, there are roughly 565 hours that need to be worked every week. Last semester, students worked all 565 of the available hours, but this semester they will be working closer to 490 of those hours. The rest of the hours will be made up by GC professional staff members.

Nobles said that although her work schedule was minimized to two shifts, she was pleased with the outcome because of her busy schedule. She will not be searching for other jobs to make up the pay loss.

The front desk and fitness floor, originally run by student workers, will be run by staff members from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students will be able to cover shifts from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on week-

All GC students pay an annual fee to keep the facility running and pay its workers, including professional staff members. The fee has not increased since the gym's opening in 2011. Rosenberger's request for an increase in fees has not been permitted.

The extra costs to replace equipment and the increased operational costs have forced Rosenberger to cut back student hours so the professional staff can make a living wage.

Any time there is a holiday weekend or a weekend before or following a break, the WRC plans to close in order to save money.



By Amy Lynn McDonald / Assistant News Editor

Jeremy Sokol checks in students on Jan. 22

during weekend hours over the summer as well.

GC's Front Page News

The facility will be closed has also emailed a survey to all students to find ways to improve the WRC for future usage.

## MLK

member of this committee. "Our planning committee is probably somewhere between 11 and 14 people at any given meeting, so we really do get a whole bunch of different perspectives."

Bragg explained that using a rubric allows the committee look more fairly at these emotionally involved works by young people engaging with King's messages. Each member of the committee reads each piece, then assigns points, which are tallied up overall in the

"One thing that's interesting is typically we're pretty consistent," Bragg said. "The scoring is fairly consistent across the board, so we feel pretty sure that we are being as fair [as possible]."

Some students who read their work, as well as Howell who spoke at the beginning of the breakfast, mentioned how today is not very far away

from very obvious racial inequalities. For example, it was only 55 years ago that the first African-American student, Cellestine Hill, entered GC.

Bragg said we are still living with the legacy that those inequalities in the present. She also said she thinks it is important to look to King's guidance and philosophies that "brought us to this better place."

When asked why it is important that this event brought together the GC and Milledgeville communities, Bragg said that a perpetual issue that universities face is "bridging the divide between the universities and the surrounding communities."

This gap is sometimes more apparent in Baldwin County because of its history as a Black Belt county, an area associated with cotton plantation agriculture and slavery in the 19th century.

"I think any effort

# GC hires new interim police chief

### James Robertson

Staff Writer

GC hired Rob Seacrist as the new interim police chief on Jan. 7.

Seacrist has spent most of his life in law enforcement after serving in Vietnam, when he began to work in undercover narcotics.

It wasn't until he became a school resource officer that he realized his true calling.

"Dealing with teachers and students, I suddenly realized, not everyone is a bad guy," Seacrist said. "There's a bigger world

and demonstration of respect and recognition that the university can make to the larger community is important for building those bridges and that network," Bragg said. "We're all members of the same community."

than just black and white, bad guy, good guy."

After becoming a resource officer, he decided to stick with it, eventually coming to GC.

Seacrist brings 36 years of being a chief of police at universities, including the Universities of Central Florida in Orlando, West Florida, Texas at San Antonio and Texas Tech Uni-

He holds a bachelor's degree in education, a masters degree in sociology and is a graduate FBI national academy.

Seacrist plans to be here for two to three months, depending on how long it safety of a campus. takes to hire the next chief.

According to Susan Allen, GC Vice President of Finance and Administration, a new chief will be selected soon.

"We have the System Office reviewing all applicants and providing the institutional search committee with 10 finalist,"

Allen said. "Next, the search committee will bring four or five candidates to campus, conduct stakeholder surveys and then provide three unranked candidates for hiring consideration. GC Executive Cabinet will discuss the candidates and make a decision."

"My goal here is to create a safe environment, understanding that nobody can make an environment 100 percent safe," Seacrist

GC police Sgt. Michael Baker, in charge of emergency management, said the presence of interim chief does not reduce the

"I don't think [having an interim chief] reduces the safety to the campus community at all, you just don't have the same point of contact in this position," Baker said. "We all know the job that needs to be done."

Seacrist said he tends to enjoy college law enforcement as opposed to municipal law enforcement.

"You deal with good people more than you deal with bad," Seacrist said. "Being in this [university] environment gives you even more perception that there is more good in the world than bad."

Seacrist is a musician as well. He plays the guitar, mandolin, harmonica and dobro. He's been a musician since he was 12 years old, starting with guitar, and plays classic country, classic rock, bluegrass and blues. He is a part of a classic rock band and a bluegrass band in Valdosta.

He has the ability to play by ear and does not read music, which is no easy

"My entire family is musical," Seacrist said. "My father was a musician. [When] I go to family reunions, there's always instruments everywhere, and always there's someone playing something."

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The Colonnade

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#### **NEWS**

## No offseason for groundskeeping at GC

#### Amy Lynn McDonald Asst. News Editor

When students blooms and groundskeepaway, come to play. Winter is key for maintaining GC's campus flora. The break allows groundskeepers to prepare for the spring and when plants summer young minds on and campus are growing.

"There's an unconscious value to having a nice environment when you walk out of class," said John Whittle, one of two grounds supervisors at GC.

However, upholding the standard students expect on campus is no walk in the park.

"A lot of people don't realize it, but grounds maintenance is a 365-day-a-year job," said Aaron Seay, GC's second grounds supervisor. "There are a lot of things that go into play right now."

Seay and Whittle survey and plan landscapes while coordinating tasks for the grounds crews, including daily maintenance of campus areas such as the Front Campus lawn and flower beds encircling buildings.

Grounds crews recently finished clearing the last of the fall leaf accumulations. Now Seay and Whittle are focused on maintenance and preparing for spring.

"Here shortly we will be putting out pinestraw and mulch, and we will do some applications of chemicals to the lawn and shrub areas to keep weeds from germinating," Whittle said.

For a campus rich with blooming plants, pruning and weed control are imperative for keeping plants healthy and producing the best quality blooms.

Though the weed control regime includes herbicides and pesticides, the two supervisors take steps to limit the amount of chemicals being applied.

"We install plants that are correct for the area they are planted in, so we don't have to do a lot of herbicide and pesticide treatments," Whittle said.

Plants that are both aesthetically-pleasing as well as low-maintenance in this region include azaleas, hydrangeas and dogwood trees, all of which are a part of the symphony of blooms each spring at GC.

Larger maintenance projects occur while students are away over break. This winter, GC groundskeeping brought in contractors to prune and cut down trees around campus. The contractors cut dying trees that posed threats if they fell and pruned dying limbs for the overall health and beauty of trees.

"Grounds is a big recruiting tool here at the school, and maintaining the image of the campus is important," Seay said.

When freshman Brooke Weeks visited GC for the first time, she found the campus area charming.

"My favorite place is front campus because it's so open and there's always people out there," said Weeks, a biology major. "It's all very put-together."

Being "put-together" is according to Whittle and Seay's efforts and designs.

When creating new landscapes, the two grounds supervisors conider common elements used around campus to maintain visual continuity.

"It's about what works well for our campus and what blends in with our existing landscape," Seay said.



Amy Lynn McDonald / Assistant News Editor

Flowers soak up sun after a week of rain on Jan. 17



Amy Lynn McDonald / Assistant News Editor

New bushes surround the NPHC memorial outside of Bell Hall











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Madison Dov

Erin Drynan

Erin Drynar

Holly Duffy

Shira Duke

Regan Duke

Andrew Duffie

Jonah Faulknor

Margaret Fisher

Tais Ferreira

Caroline Harpe

Abigail Harper

Olivia Dumas Danielle Dunagan Russell Duncan Zachary Dunn Bethany Dyals Amelia Dye Mallory Dykes Ariel Ebaugh Jenna Ebers Isabella Eche Maggie Edenfield Ariel Edenfield Marianna Edmond Amy Edwards Jake Einig Ahmed El-Sham Jessica Eleaze Samuel Elliott Anna Elliott Jillian Elme Isabella Empolit Anderson England Robert English Meital Enlan-Eranke Cassidy Ericksor Alexa Espinoza Addison Ethridge Charles Evans Dennis Evans Caroline Evans lacob Everhar Andrew Fancher Faith Farber Vanessa Farley Kallie Farr Lori Fatzinger Jordan Fave Peyton Faw . Ioshua Fellov Andrew Fergusor Ariana Fernandez Catherine Ferrera Ryan Fields Kaylee Finlay Lindsey Fische **Emily Fitchjarrell** Nicholas Fitzgerald Katja Flachbarth John Forestner James Fortwengle Logan Freeman Layla Frost anna Fuller Melody Fulme Katherine Funke Emily Fye Kelsey Galt Cain Gantt Haley Garcia laycee Garland . William Garmor Haley Garrett Amber Garrett Colleen Garrigar Emily Garvir Sarah Geise Isabelle Genut Brooke George Zaria Gholsto Tessa Gibase Clayton Gilchrist Cassandra Gill Zachary Gilliam Erin Giuliano Dilyn Hill Julia Glaze Jess Hill Emily Hilsche Emily Glick Megan Hilson Annsli Hilton Sydney Glouse Riley Goff Kyle Hinton Madison Golden Curry Hoats Lia Gonzale Flizabeth Hobb

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Karston Spradley

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Hannah Staples

Holly Roha

Allyson Ozburr

**Brittany Pace** 

Sierra Padgett

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Morgan Waters

Thomas Watkin

Tristan Watson

Brooke Weeks Sarah Weeks Sydney Weis Jordan Wells Coleman Wellstead Samantha Whatley Lily Wheeler Abigail Wheele Madison White McKenna Whitley Lauren Whitley Madison Whitsitt Richard Whittington Amanda Wiggins Brooke Wiggins David Williams Duncan Williams Emily Williams Richard Williams Dakota Williamson Mary Williamson Micah Williamson Elizabeth Willingham Lauren Willis Hannah Willis Dontavius Wilson 1organ Wilson Julia Wiman **Brittany Wimberly** Bailey Windham Kellyn-Brook Wise Amanda Witmond Taylor Wooden Ashley Woottor Daniana Worster Kelsey Wright Emma Yauger Mckenna Yearick Brooke Ysseldyke Bailey Zacherl Zade Zafar Kathryn Zell Zachary Zieglei Ruby Zimme

Lucie Weatherall

Bryce Webb

Daesha Webb

Morgan Webb

#### **SPORTS**

#### Ball

**CONTINUED** FROM PAGE 1

and we always have a shot to win the national championship," said Driver Watson, coordinator of RecSports. "We just haven't quite jumped the last hurdle yet."

With so much success blossoming from the effort of Ball throughout the state and national tournament, there weren't high expectations before the games began.

"We went into both tournaments optimistic but not expecting to do nearly as well as we did, but once we started playing and winning, we built momentum and confidence that grew and carried over into each game we played," said Mitch Risley, team captain and quarterback. "We realized we had a good shot once we dominated the state tournament the way that we did."

Ball member and intramural legend Braxton Roberts described the quarterfinal matchup in the national tournament against Texas Southern.

"We looked across

the most calm expression on his face and just told all of us that we were about to win."

Ball emerged with a 28-26 victory.

The National Runner-Up is not the only accolade the team has brought back to GC. Risley and defensive standout Michael LaHood are two of six players declared All-Americans during the tournament.

This is Risley's second All-American selection since he was awarded All-American honors at the 2017 national tournament. He led with 30 touchdowns, five ahead of the next closest ath-

LaHood earned his first All-American honor by leading the tournament with 18 tackles for loss and a handful of significant defensive plays.

"Michael LaHood was by far the most impactful player on defense throughout the tournament," Watson said. "And Mitch [Risley] is probably the greatest intramural athlete that GC has ever had come through the program."

The GC Intramural organization is no stranger to the national tournament stage. The men's intramural flag



Courtesy of Steve Risley

Mitch Risley avoids a tackle against Valdosta State in the state tournament

GC has now had three athletes selected as All-Americans in the past three years at the national tournament: Casey Braun and Risley in 2017 and Risley and LaHood in 2019.

GC has also contributed to the national tournament with officiating selections.

Josh Brown was accepted into the national tournament as a referee for the past two years, an honor only awarded to the Top 50 referees in

national tournament in both 2016 and 2017.

To be selected, referees compete with one another in region and state tournaments to

national tournament.

GC Intramurals has gained attention and respect through its intramural flag football team

receive their bids to the in recent years and will continue to strive for success and a produce a winning culture.

Alex Jones / Sports Editor

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## **ARTS & LIFE**

## **Twins**

"I got to experience a new kind of sisterhood with my own sister, and that's definitely brought us closer together," Hailey said.

Though the Brannan sisters immediately knew that they wanted to live together through college, Alexis Griffis from Lawrenceville, Georgia needed a little more convincing to go to school with her fraternal twin Ansley.

Originally, Alexis and Ansley had agreed on going to separate schools to avoid becoming overly attached to one another.

"You can go to any school except mine," Alex-

is said to Ansley while they were in the process of applying to schools.

However, after a few plans fell through, the two ended up enrolling together at GC Fall 2017. Though they did not room together, Alexis now agrees that having your twin with you truly does improve your outlook during your freshman year.

"I already had a best friend, so I wasn't lonely," Griffis said.

On top of having a familiar face in the sea of new people, Alexis also discovered that having her twin here has proven more to be more comical than she had expected. A few people have actually tried to introduce her to her

own twin since they aren't identical.

Alexis offers this advice to anyone starting college with their twin: "You'll have a best friend, but don't make them your only friend. And don't tell people you're twins. Let them figure it out for themselves."

Despite having already been together for 18 years, both the Brannan and the Griffis sisters agree that going to college together has improved their relationships far more than they expected and that they are grateful for the experience.





Madison Miles / Assistant News Photographe

Twin sisters Hailey and Bailey Brannan pose together in the GC library on Jan. 17

Skipping out on New Year's resolutions

## Hannah Wildes Staff Writer

Once the New Year rolls around, many people find themselves scrambling to find a New Year's resolution. But why do so many people make resolutions that set them up for failure? Whether it's planning to go to the gym everyday or read a chapter of a book every night before bed, many resolutions are made each year with the unintentional mindset of not completing them.

"I think people often set too many or too lofty a change/challenge and then can't keep it up in the long run," said Susan Spencer, a counselor at the GC Wellness Center. "Instead of working out every day for a person who has rarely gotten exercise, the goal might be to get more exercise and set the goal for the minimum of two to three days per week, 30 minutes each workout."

Instead of setting a goal that seems impossible to go through with, Spencer suggested starting small. Many resolutions are made each year with the unintentional mindset of not completing them.

"For some people, having a partner/coach who encourages you can also be helpful," Spencer said. "It is also helpful to reflect on our resolutions daily to remind ourselves why it is something we want."

In order to keep a determined mind and an

optimistic attitude about your resolutions, Shadisha Bennett Brodde, also a counselor at the GC Wellness Center, said that you have to "frame" your resolutions in a positive manner. Brodde said that it is important "to have some flexibility in the way we see ourselves and our goals."

However, the idea of sticking with a resolution for a whole year can seem daunting.

Makenah Mader

brought up the idea of finding a word for the year, rather than a resolution that you could end up giving up on.

"Personally, I like this more than resolutions because I find it provides more room for personal growth. I think most people create unrealistic goals, which can lead to discouragement and giving up,"Mader said. "You are only setting yourself up for failure if you know you're creating a goal

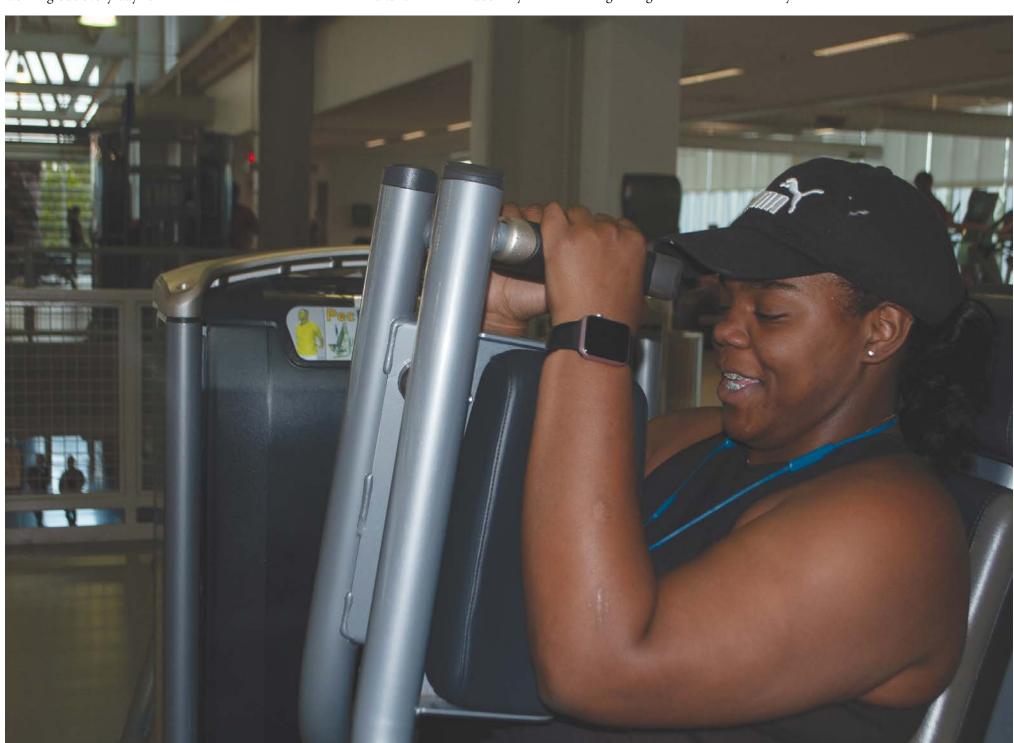
that you do not have the time or energy for. While New Year's resolutions prompt a positive desire for change, choosing unhealthy steps in getting to that goal is what wrongs us"

more room for personal growth. I think most
people create unrealistic
goals, which can lead to
discouragement and giving up,"Mader said. "You

For others like Bryan
Irlbeck, New Year's resolutions are so "last year."
Something new instead of
making any resolutions.

"I didn't make a New Year's resolution because I believe that if you want to make a positive change to your daily routine, you should do it immediately," Irlbeck said. "Going to the gym everyday is an unrealistic resolution because things like school and work will get in the way, but maybe try setting a goal of going to the gym four times a week."

Resolutions are goals meant to be achieved, not meant to sit on the top shelf and collect dust.



## **ARTS & LIFE**

## **Musicians to follow in 2019**

#### **Brendan Borders** Staff Writer

With 2018 being a year of great music, several artists have stuck around in our brains, and we cannot wait for their new music coming in 2019.

Writer of The Colonnade's "Tonality" music column, Benjamin Monckton, said some bands to look for in 2019 are Empress of, Ruel, Young Nudy, King Princess, J.S. Ondara and Danger Incorporated.

"Empress of is latin-based," said Monckton, a senior mass communication student. "Young Nudy is [a] new ATL hip-hop [artist] working with 21 Savage. Danger Incorporated is 'neo R&B' [and] signed to Father's

robi-raised alt-rocker, for the likes of James Blake. Ruel is R&B that takes on similar styles of Ella Mai's smash called 'Boo'd Up."

Additionally, Monckton said the best way to find new bands is to explore who tours with artists you like. He also suggested that if you are familiar with one music label, you should look for new signings on that label because one will likely interest you.

phile, senior Chandler Durden, mentioned some up and coming bands like Greta Van Fleet, Crumb and Still Woozy. "I was shown Still

Another avid audio-

Woozy by a friend," said Durden, a mass communications major. "[Still Woozy is] An interesting solo artist recording out of his garage."

Crumbis a female-led band very similar to Still Woozy.

Durden also said that The Revivalists, Futurebirds, Vulfpeck and CBDB are popular right now.

The Revivalists are an alt-rock band from New Orleans, Louisiana with recent No. 1 singles like "All my friends" and "Wish I knew you." Athens-based indie band Futurebirds has top hits like "Virginia Slims" (2013) and "Rodeo" (2015).

"[I like] an array of smaller unknowns that have one or two songs that are really different and stand out from the same unoriginal song that you hear on the radio sung by some angsty pop princess who couldn't alone without stand auto tune," Durden said.

Ann Arbor, Michigan's

with hit songs like "Back Pocket" and "Wait for the moment." And CBDB of Tuscaloosa, Alabama is a progressive rock band whose members are self-proclaimed purveyors "Joy-Funk." Their songs clude "New Eyes" and "Slow Foxes." With these musical artists on the rise, 2019 Still Woozy's looks like it will be a year

2017 single "Cooks" of great moments in the world of

Danger Incorperated's

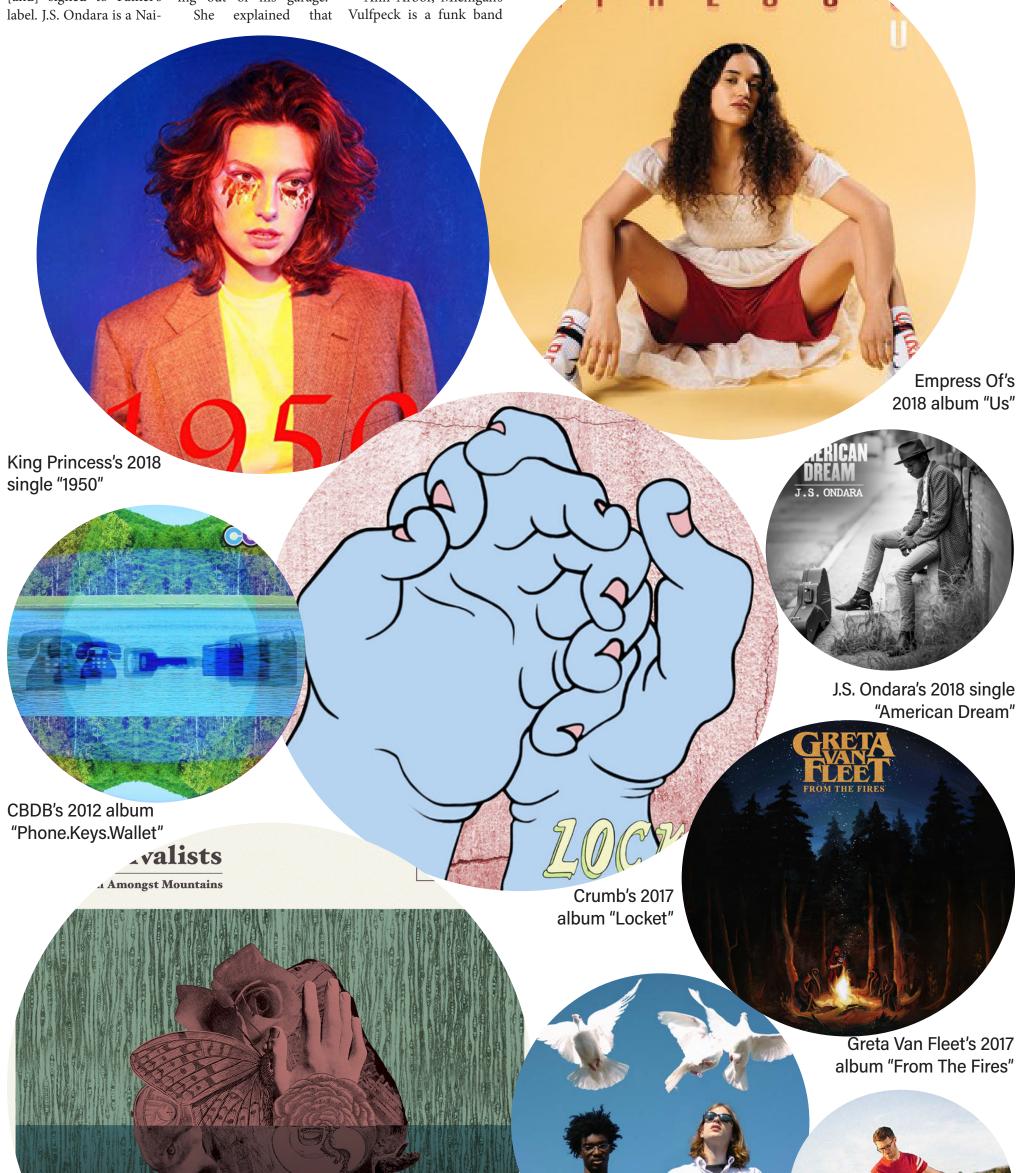
"Birds Fly By Night"

2017 album

Vulfpeck's 2016

"The Beautiful Game"

album



The Revivalist's 2015 album

"Men Amongst Mountains"